

Application No.: 09/872532

Case No.: 56763US002

Remarks

Reconsideration and continued prosecution of the present application is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 14 are being amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 12 and 20, respectively. No new matter has been added. Claims 12 and 20, therefore, are being canceled.

The title of the application is also being amended to reflect the modification of the overall claim set. Support for the modification can be found e.g. in original claims 12 and 20. No new matter has been added.

After entry of the amendment, claims 1-11, 13-19, and 21 will remain pending.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 13-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(c) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,569,517 (McGurran et al.).

Applicants reserve the right to overcome this rejection in a continuation application. In the meantime, for purposes of the present application, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 to include the subject matter of dependent claims 12 and 20, respectively, which subject matter was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable. The rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, the early indication of which is earnestly solicited.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted, and no fee is believed to be due; however, if this belief is in error, please charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: Stephen C. Jensen
Stephen C. Jensen, Reg. No.: 35,207
Telephone No.: (651) 736-3369

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833